

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 167551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EFIS, SP, IATTC

SUBJECT:SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE IATTC

1. OVER A YEAR AGO GOS AT THE URGING OF USG, APPLIED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION. ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES AGREED TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP EXCEPT MEXICO, WHICH CLAIMS TO HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SPANISH JOINING COMMISSION, BUT IS UNABLE TO AGREE DUE TO LACK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. MEXICO THUS CANNOT RESPOND TO SPAIN'S NOTE, BUT SAYS THAT IF ITEM IS PLACED ON IATTC AGENDA AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING THEY WILL ABSTAIN.

2. USG WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF USING THIS PROCEDURE BUT FIRST WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT GOS IS STILL INTERESTED IN JOINING IATTC AND THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE AGREABLE. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH APPROPRIATE UNCLASSIFIED

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GOS OFFICIALS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT USG PLANNING TO PURSUE THIS MATTER BASED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT GOS STILL DESIRES IATTC MEMBERSHIP. US SUPPORTS SPANISH MEMBERSHIP AS WAY OF STRENGTHENING EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMISSION'S CONSERVATION

MEASURES, SINCE SPAIN RANKS FOURTH AMONG NATIONS FISHING IN IATTC AREA AND IS AT PRESENT NOT BOUND BY IATTC MEASURES. FYI: REPORTS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT SPANISH VESSELS OPERATE AT VARIANCE WITH IATTC RULES; END FYI. EMBASSY MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT IATTC MEMBERSHIP COULD BE VALUABLE TO GOS FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF LOS SETTLEMENT ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES. KISSINGER

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